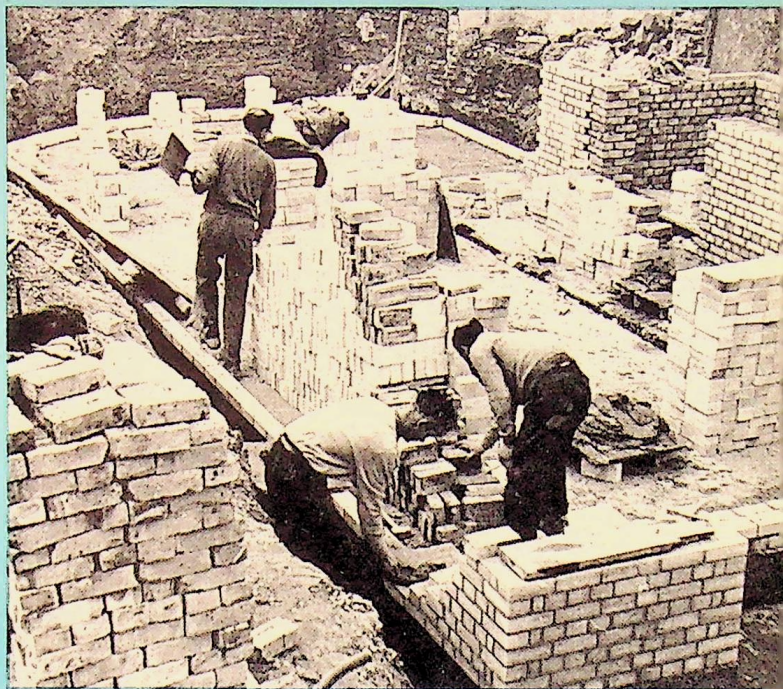


TOC H JOURNAL

NEWS VIEWS AND IDEAS

MAY 1961



PUBLISHED BY TOC H AT FIFTEEN
TRINITY SQUARE — LONDON EC3



NINEPENCE

New Forum

Contents of the Spring Number, now on sale, include:

Some Thoughts on Dr. Zhivago ...	Editorial
The Common Sense of Science ...	Alan Hill
Prisoners and Captives ...	R. L. Bradley
People and Work ...	J. B. MacMillan
Greatness (Verse) ...	W. W. Bains
Border Country ...	John Adam
The Abuse of Words ...	Bryan Podmore

Write for a copy now (1s. 2d. including postage), or better still send Postal Order, 4s. 6d., which will ensure you receiving a complete year's issues of this lively Toc H quarterly.

'Focus on Toc H' (3)



For particulars and Entry Form for our new Photographic Competition, open to all Journal readers, see the end pages.

Advertisers

Manufacturers of a wide range of articles of interest to our readers will find the JOURNAL pages helpful in making their goods and services known. Enquiries about space and charges will be welcomed by Stan Waters, who handles our advertising, at Messrs. Arthur H. Wheeler & Co., St. Stephen's House, Victoria Embankment, London, S.W.1.

Ourselves

The Toc H JOURNAL is published monthly eleven times a year. The April issue is a double number and there is no August number. A subscription can commence with any issue and costs only 9s. for a complete year.

N.B.—A price concession to 7s. 6d. per dozen, post free, is made to Branches ordering a minimum of one dozen copies.

THIRTY-NINTH YEAR OF PUBLICATION

TOC H JOURNAL



MAY 1961

Letters and articles are welcomed and are
printed as individual points of view only

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COVER PICTURE: Having completed the demolition of the old building, work is now well in hand for the new Mark III, Hackney.

Photograph by 'Skegg' Blanchard

EDITORIAL OFFICE · TOC H, 15 TRINITY SQ
LONDON EC3 · TELEPHONE ROYAL 0472



AND



notes & comment

Mental Health

WITH THE PASSING OF THE MENTAL HEALTH Act, 1959, provision has been made for new ideas in the treatment of the mentally disordered. The first of these is to lessen the formality of entering a hospital for treatment and the second is that there are far too many patients at present in mental hospitals when they need not be there at all. Day hospitals, where patients spend the whole or part of a day, returning home in the evening, is one development and there are other pilot schemes for looking after patients in their own homes when they are not in need of hospital care and both residential hostels and social clubs for ex-hospital patients are among the new ideas being worked out. A note in our March issue told of the assistance given by Wembley members at one such club to help mental patients find their way back into the life of the community. While new services for the mentally ill are being set up there is a fundamental need for us all to become more knowledgeable on what is being done and what can be done to help. With this in mind the National Association for Mental Health have published a booklet *Everybody's Business*, outlining the opportunities now given to local authorities, voluntary bodies and the man in the street to play their part. Written in non-medical terms, this should be a 'must' for circulation in every Branch and copies (1s. 6d.) can be obtained direct from The National Association for Mental Health, 39 Queen Anne Street, London, W.1.

Tidier Britain

SPEAKING AT THE OPENING OF THE 1961 ANTI-litter campaign, Mr. CLIFF MICHELMORE, of the BBC *Tonight* programme, said that what he liked about the KEEP BRITAIN TIDY GROUP was that "it sets out to do something positive and is not just an anti group". The Group's efforts have undoubtedly led to a substantial amount of local activity and to greater publicity for the prevention of litter; but to get the co-operation of all in avoiding the marring and disfiguring of so much that is beautiful is a matter of education in which everyone can fill the double role of teacher and pupil. 'Avoid and remove' might well be the slogan for this year's forthright attack on "the chequered spectacle of so much glory and so much shame".

TOC H JOURNAL

S.L.I.M. Conference

HOW CAN A CHRISTIAN INFLUENCE THE AREA IN which he lives and works; his trade union or his employers' federation? A mixture of men from both factory floor and management levels, that included transport workers, dockers, shop stewards and trade union officials, warmly discussed these and other questions at a conference held in London recently. Organised by S.L.I.M., the South London Industrial Mission, the conference was called for laymen concerned with leadership and responsibility in industry. The Bishop of Southwark, the Rt. Rev. MERVYN STOCKWOOD, speaking on "The Church in Society", said that no Christian could be anything else than politically minded. He must apply his Faith to the things that were going on about him. This did not mean that the Church has got to be identified with any political party, but that every Christian has got to exercise his political rights and must act in accordance with his conscience without, however, committing the Church.

Belgium Pre-visited

WITH MORE AND MORE PEOPLE TAKING HOLIDAYS further afield visiting 'furrin parts', it would seem a reasonable plan for them to get to know beforehand something of the country they intend to visit. There are, of course, guide-books galore which list in a terse, abridged form, the towns and cities with their pops, and noteworthy treasures and there are also the more discursive ones, padded out with dates and anecdotes that flit lightly around and about. We thought we knew the Belgian scene rather well until a copy of a new type of guide, *BELGIUM*, published by Vista Books, came our way. Written by a Belgian author with an intimate knowledge and few illusions about his fellow-countrymen—or us, their visitors, for that matter—it provides a first-class background to a country shared by those two distinct peoples, the Flemings and Walloons, and in a very readable manner shows how and where they merge and where they differ. With very many good illustrations, this well-printed paper-back is remarkably good value at 6s. 0d. No matter how well you already know Belgium, you will certainly know it better and have a greater understanding of its people after reading this little book.

World's Children

ON WORLD CHILDREN'S DAY, CELEBRATED ON June 14, there will be well over 1,000,000,000 children in the world. Many of them living in the less developed countries of the world are hungry, illiterate, exposed to poverty and disease. Fortunately the conscience of the world is revolting against this international injustice and callousness to children, just as our own national conscience did in Britain to the plight of many of our children in the last century. Those who would like to make this year's World Children's Day

another step towards helping more of the world's children should write to the Secretary, Organising Committee for World Children's Day, 14/15 Stratford Place, London, W.1, for particulars of this year's plans, posters, films, printed matter and suggestions for suitable local activities.

Branch History

ANY BRANCH THAT HAS ATTAINED ITS MAJORITY, with roots running deep through the community, has a tale well worth telling. Where events both great and small, the successes and the failures, have been consistently entered in the Branch Log the material for a stirring story is readily to hand. But it needs the selective touch of a skilled and patient hand to bring the narrative within the limited bounds of a single volume. When Hounslow Branch celebrated its twenty-first birthday in 1958, Sydney Burkinshaw, one of its founder members, undertook the fascinating job of producing a Branch history. The successful result of his three years' labour has now been published under the title *To Build Bravely* and in the preface Tubby writes of "the fine pervading Christian fellowship which peeps from every page in this volume". Apart from its strong local and personal interest, this book might well serve as a pattern to other Branches that are thinking of producing their own 'history'. Copies can be had at the modest price of 5s. 0d. direct from John Morgan, 32 Penbury Road, Norwood Green, Southall, Middlesex.

Youth Service

"LEADERSHIP IS A FACT OF LIFE," SAID Lady Albemarle, when opening the National College for the Training of Youth Leaders at Leicester on March 30. "Take any group in any given situation that calls for action, and it will throw up its leader; not necessarily always the same one, that depends on the challenge, different challenges may well evoke different relationships with the group. It is the know-how that counts, the capability to handle the situation and to get people to work together. You are being trained as leaders in just this sense, learning skills and increasing your sympathetic insight. This concept of leadership is really a return to the Christian archetype of love and service, and it has a validity far beyond these walls. It is the leadership of which the world itself stands in need."

St. Andrew, Sudbury

ON PALM SUNDAY EVENING TUBBY PREACHED at the Parish Church of St. Andrew, Sudbury, Middlesex where Padre JOHN DURHAM is Vicar. A very large Congregation, including members from neighbouring Branches, was present; Tubby looked and seemed very fit, and was in tremendous form. After the Service he met members of Toc H and the Congregation in the Church Hall and told them, amongst other things, of the work done by 'Jacmac' in Australia. John tells us that it was a most memorable evening.

Playground Adventure

F. G. CHESWORTH

A FENCED-IN STRETCH of muddy ground with a near-derelict hut was all Mr. H. S. Turner's territory offered on his taking over the job of Warden of a Lambeth children's adventure playground. Now, three-and-a-half years later, he has set down* his experiences there with 200 and more children and adolescents between the ages of two and twenty and other members of their families. For most of them life was drab and boring, so much so that the mud-patch provided relief for some from their acute loneliness and adventure for most in their search for esteem and affection.



Early on, the Warden clashed with a gang of local Teddy boys. "A voice behind me said, 'We're taking over here, Guv.' I turned round and saw a boy of about sixteen or so with a flick-knife in his hand and the blade extended towards me while he stood poised on the tips of his toes in the classical 'ready' position. By this time I was really angry and my reaction was to seize him by the wrist and twist it until he dropped the knife."

But life in Lambeth for Mr. Turner was not all gangs and guts, and he has his own ideas on how the place should run. Following a poor start the derelict site gradually

became transformed into a haven, with a home-made lawn, a caravan and a tool shed and workshop run by the youngsters themselves, who also produced their own weekly wall newspaper.

* *Something Extraordinary*, by H. S. Turner, Michael Joseph, 21s. 0d.

But perhaps the most remarkable achievement of all was the boys' scheme for helping old age pensioners by redecorating their rooms, chopping firewood and making minor repairs to their furniture. It made an instant appeal, the work being carried out willingly and well, with the boys themselves paying for the materials used. All this despite the prevailing philosophy that "Yer don't do nuffink for nuffink".

Children grow up and ripen rapidly in the poorer parts of our big towns, and by the time the tale has been told one feels on more than nodding terms with 'The Masher', Sandy, Nick, 'Turkish Delight' and many another difficult and developing youngster.

The centre's success depended almost entirely on the tenacity, the sense of humour and, above all, the great compassion of one man, who whole-heartedly tackled a job that would have daunted most. His story is indeed a chapter of life with the lid off and while there is no attempt to preach or moralise this moving book has much to say to all who would understand the outlook and strange world of today's adolescent, and the social problem that they present.

CENTRAL PARTIES AT DOR KNAP

There are at present still vacancies in the following "central" parties at Dor Knap this summer:

1. Sunday May 28 to Friday June 2: FOR PILOTS AND OTHERS (Leader: Padre Jim Davies, Toc H Headquarters, 15 Trinity Square, London, E.C.3.)
2. Friday June 23 to Sunday June 25: A WEEKEND FOR JOBMASTERS. (Leader: Alec Churcher, Toc H Headquarters, 15 Trinity Square, London, E.C.3.)
3. Saturday July 22 to Saturday July 29: FOR YOUNG MEMBERS. (Leaders: Alan Hill and Ray Fabes, c/o Toc H Headquarters.)
4. Saturday August 12 to Saturday August 19: "THE LIFE AND WORK OF A BRANCH". (Leader: Alec Churcher, Toc H Headquarters, 15 Trinity Square, London, E.C.3.)
5. Saturday August 26 to Saturday September 2: FOR OLDER LEADERS. (Leader: John Callf, Toc H Headquarters, 15 Trinity Square, London, E.C.3.)
6. Saturday September 2 to Saturday September 9: "WHERE DO WE GO FROM HERE?" (Leader: Iain Fraser, 4 Coles Drive, Arnside, Carnforth, Lancs.)

Applications should be addressed to the leaders of the parties concerned.

'Toc H and the Lawbreaker'

H. E. HOWES

N EARLY thirty years ago, when I was living at Mark XXII, Alec Paterson came to speak about prisons at a Branch Guest-night. I cannot remember the words he used but I do remember my determination at the end of his talk to become a prison visitor when I had the chance. I remember his telling about this enthralling job in such a way that I knew I was not mature enough, nor competent enough, to make a start then and I was by no means certain that I could meet the requirement which he riveted into our minds that if we started we must go on regularly, so that no prisoners who were visited were let down.

Had I not already become a prison visitor I think I would have taken immediate steps after the conference I attended at Toc H Headquarters which was arranged by ALEC CHURCHER under the title "Toc H and the Lawbreaker". At this evening conference between sixty and seventy Toc H members, mainly from the south of England, were privileged to hear Mr. DUNCAN FAIRN (Director, Prison Administration), Mr. C. T. CAPE (Assistant Prison Commissioner), Lt.-Com. A. HAGUE (General Secretary of the National Association of Discharged Prisoners' Aid Societies and Director of Men's Division, Central After-care Association), and Mr. F. C. FOSTER (Director of Borstal Division, Central After-care Association), speak to us from their great experience of prisons and the after-care of prisoners. The Chairman was R. L. BRADLEY, himself an ex-Prison Commissioner and now a member of the Central Executive of Toc H.

Alec Paterson would, I think, have been pleased at that meeting for a number of reasons. Firstly because it is unlikely that anyone other than Toc H could have got together such distinguished speakers all at the same time. And I think he would have been pleased to see so many Toc H members gathered together to deepen their understanding of this vitally important work.

Mr. Fairn and Mr. Cape spoke eloquently of the progress being made in the treatment of prisoners and the facilities

now available to "bring to bear every influence which may establish in the inmates the will to lead a good and useful life on release and to fit them to do so by the fullest possible development of their character, capacities and sense of personal responsibility".*

If they gave the impression of being perhaps a little satisfied with what is being accomplished we knew that this was only an expression of their keen desire to make even greater progress in extremely difficult circumstances. But it was stimulating and re-assuring for those of us who are prison visitors to be reminded that the prison service is in the hands of such devoted, inspired and gifted men. We need this reassurance from time to time, and it is possible that Prison Governors and Prison Officers need it too, because somewhere down the line from Prison Commissioners to prisons this inspiration sometimes gets lost. The prisoners I know give the impression of feeling they are held tight in a rigid system which is deadening, purposeless and in many aspects plain stupid. Yet I know that inspiration and vision is evident in the Governors I have met: the majority of Prison Officers are a splendid bunch of human men, devoted to their jobs.

Mr. Duncan Fairn said there were four things which Toc H members could do:—

1. Become more informed themselves, and help public opinion generally to be better informed, as to what is being done.

This is a list of booklets which the four speakers recommended:

Prisons and Borstals (England and Wales).

H.M. Stationery Office, 7s. 0d.

Penal Practice in a Changing Society,

H.M. Stationery Office, 2s. 6d.

Annual Report of the Central After-care Association, 1958.

H.M. Stationery Office, 2s. 0d.

Annual Report of National Association of Discharged Prisoners' Aid Societies (NADPAS),

from NADPAS, 66 Eccleston Square, London, S.W.1.

2. Offer their friendship and understanding to members of the staff of prisons, borstals, etc.
3. Find more and more of the right men to give voluntary help as visitors to prisons and borstals and with after-care.
4. Help over home leave and the finding of jobs.

More than once, as I heard the speakers answering questions and speaking from their great knowledge and experience of prison life and after-care, I thought that if the men in prison whom I know could have heard what was said they

* from *The Prison Rules*.

would not have recognised it as in any way concerned with their lives. One of the men I visit (he has had thirty Christ-mases in prison) put it in another way. When I told him I was going to this Conference and mentioned the name of one of the speakers he said, "He's a proper gent. But he can't do anything. He's got no authority."

The conference enthralled us; we felt grateful and privileged. I wish the spirit which moved us all could find its way down to the men and women in our prisons.

Calstock Calypso

H. E. FOSTER

Why, do you think, I like to meet
That bunch of fellows down the street:
Is it because we're all agreed
On the kind of government we need?
No, it is not upon this ground
That the answer will be found.
I must try another field,
And see if that the answer yield.
It is not easy to define,
The things that round us intertwine,
Though together we are bound,
Yet nowhere is more freedom found.
It doesn't rely on the old school tie;
If it did, we'd never get by.
Here the slow of tongue may speak,
Though the oration may be weak.
It aims to do all it possibly can,
For the love of God and the good of man.
To lessen the weight of someone's load,
As they travel along this earthly road.
Don't be misled with the picture drawn,
That there's less of brain and more of brawn.
Tongues will wag on any theme,
From hydrogen bombs to the sewage scheme.
The meetings end with the Toc H Prayer
The inspiration springs from there.
Though they don't broadcast that fact
They know what keeps Toc H intact.

MULTUM IN PARVO

much in little



✽ The CENTRAL COUNCIL held its annual meeting on April 15-16. A report will be published in the next issue.

✽ BRANCHES should invite their Councillors to tell them personally about the Council's proceedings and the matters that affect them.

✽ The Rev. ROBERT GREY, now acting as South-Western Area Padre, is at 2 Colleton Crescent, Exeter.

✽ OPEN DAY at DOR KNAP, near Broadway, Worcs., on Whit Monday, May 22. Send a card to the Warden and take your picnic basket and the family.

✽ YORKSHIRE FESTIVAL at Huddersfield on May 27.

✽ SOUTHERN GARDEN PARTY at Mark V, Southampton, on June 3.

✽ RAMBLERS' WEEK from June 3 to 11: Ask for posters and leaflets from the Ramblers' Association, 48 Park Road, London, N.W.1.

✽ LONDON SPORTS in Battersea Park on June 10.

✽ EAST MIDLANDS FESTIVAL at Peterborough on June 10.

✽ BARCLAY BARON, O.B.E., has been appointed a Vice-President of the Toc H Corporation.

✽ AN APOLOGY: The list of Vice-Presidents in the Annual Report omitted the O.B.E. after the name of H. LEIGH GROVES, who received this honour in 1960.

✽ SOUTH WALES RALLY at Caerphilly on June 10-11.

✽ For JOBBMASTERS and others: A weekend at Dor Knap on June 23-25. Apply to Alec Churcher at H.Q.

✽ NORTHERN RALLY at Durham on July 1-2.

✽ For boys aged 11 to 15: a holiday under canvas on the coast of Kent for a week or fortnight between July 15 and September 2. Apply to The Warden, Hawkshill Camp, Walmer, near Deal, Kent. (Deal 1090.)

✽ At GROTON OLD HALL in Suffolk: The weeks from August 12 to September 9 are available for family holidays. Apply to 'Fergie' at H.Q.

✽ PEOPLE TO PEOPLE WEEK: The Week of International Friendship throughout Britain from November 19 to 26.



Toc H London Rugby Club

Past, Present and Future

MILES QUEST

OUR PAST is slowly coming back to us. The history of the pre-war Club, which at one time seemed nothing more than a jigsaw puzzle, the pieces of which had been lost in time and memory, is slowly coming to life again. By straight or sometimes devious means, minute books and team lists, accounts and photographs are all filtering through to Mark XX. We are hearing, also, from former players. Geoffrey Batchelar, John Austin, Denis Arber, Tom Madgett, Doug Jones and many more (names which must be familiar to older readers), have all written in and are supporting us. There must be many another who played alongside these players who read the JOURNAL, and we would like to hear from them.

The present Club, however, is certainly having its setbacks. No sooner are we settled in at our home ground in Wimbledon, than we have to move. At a time when next season's fixture list is complete, we have been given notice to quit (the Wimbledon Council must give preference to home Clubs) and once again we are on the hard and very long search for a ground. With a little luck, the London Playing Fields Society might be able to help us, but of this we cannot yet be sure.

If this shock has done nothing else, it has brought home to us, far more forcibly than we would like, the need the Club has for a permanent home of its own. Without one, the Club cannot hope to expand. Indeed, it will not only fail to expand,

but its very existence is in jeopardy: and all the hard, patient and rewarding work that has gone into the Club will have been spent in vain. A depressing thought, this.

It is even more discouraging when it comes at a time when we are just about getting up off the floor into which we were beaten, by defeat after defeat, last season. It remains a mystery to me how the Club survived those shattering defeats, and having survived them, came up for more this season. But we did, and here we are having won five matches after Christmas out of nine (Royal Exchange Assurance 3-6, Warlingham Colts 0-11, Battersea College of Technology 3-28, Wasps



Toc H London Rugby Club, 1960-61 Season.

Occasionals 20-3, Toc H Trinity Square 12-3). The Napier match was as close as the score suggests (9-8), as was the Decca match (6-0). Only Thomas Cook's 1st XV and Pinner Grammar School 1st XV reminded us of last season—games in which nothing went right for us and we played as if we all were just about ready to hang up our boots. I think most of us felt like doing just that afterwards.

In fact the last half of the season has been most encouraging. A dance held at Mark XX, for instance, was financially successful (that is, we didn't make a loss!) and was certainly a social success. The bar proved to be adequately stocked with ale, the room was hot and the music was 'cool'. I think this must have been one of the reasons why the redoubtable John

Laine led a graceful, if somewhat militant conga out of the room, into the hall, into the front garden, along the pavement in front of the house and then home again via the dustbins. No one was lost on this circular tour, and I'm not sure that we didn't gain a few extra people. . . .

A trip to Henley, also, was a day not to be forgotten. We took two teams to the Oxfordshire sevens, and the 1st VII acquitted themselves very well indeed, throwing the game away in the second round in extra time, when they should have been 6-0 up. But the day itself was a glorious one, the sun shone without a break, and rugby and early summer appeared the perfect companions.

But the end of the season is with us now, and it is sad to be saying goodbye to a number of our players. For various reasons, Alan Bell, David Miller, Tony Pritchard, Frank Yates are leaving us. If I might strike a personal note, even I might be *hors de combat* next season. I have made, indeed we all have made, so many friends in Toc H in getting the Club on its feet, that it will be a blow to us all when the friendship and the easy-going cheerfulness has to be broken up.

And next season? It seems a long way off, but really. September will be with us in no time. The ground is our most disturbing problem and the one on which the whole future of the Club rests; let there be no doubt about that. But given some more support of *every* kind, playing, non-playing and administrative, the Club ought to be able to make a further improvement next season, and to start a second team.

But I would like to make one last plea. To help organise the Club on a slightly more permanent footing, are there not a few Branch members in London who are keen on rugby and who are willing to help with Committee work? The Marks are doing all the organising. Cannot the Branches help out?

OUR ELDER BRETHREN

With the passage of years it is inevitable that the JOURNAL has all too often to record the loss through death of members and old, firm friends of Toc H. While our indebtedness to them cannot be repaid in words alone, TUBBY is most anxious to record, as soon as other pressing claims on his time permit, the great thankfulness we feel for their many and generous contributions to the life of Toc H.

BELGIUM

the latest

Vista Travel Book

published concurrently with



GREAT BRITAIN DENMARK • SWITZERLAND

Here in handy paperback form are the ideal pocket guides for all travellers, introducing new countries, their history, politics, art and everyday life. The interesting background information makes return visits even more enjoyable.

Members of Toc H will find 'Belgium' of particular interest. As F. G. Chesworth, Editor of Toc H Journal, says, it is "quite an eye-opener . . . it contains just the right kind of information that our members would wish to have. Many of the illustrations are out of the ordinary and at six bob it is thundering good value."

Also in this series:

**SPAIN GERMANY AUSTRIA INDIA
IRELAND ITALY ISRAEL GREECE**

6s EACH

VISTA BOOKS

The Elder Brethren

'With proud thanksgiving . . .'

BATTING.—On February 27, RUPERT EDWARD BATTING, aged 84, a member of Marlow Joint Branch. Elected 3.12.'46.

BURTON.—On March 2, FREDERICK GEORGE BURTON, aged 65, a founder member of Camberwell Branch. Elected 29.11.'35.

CARTWRIGHT.—On March 2, THOMAS GOODISON CARTWRIGHT, aged 60, a member of Sleaford Branch, and formerly of Colomby Branch. Elected 1.3.'35.

CLIST.—On March 22, WALTER JOHN CLIST, aged 67, a member of Harborne Branch. Elected 4.5.'45.

CURWOOD.—On March 16, WILLIAM FREDERICK CURWOOD, aged 67, a member of Chard Branch. Elected 23.1.'47.

DAY.—On March 20, ROBERT DAY, aged 52, a member of Polmont Branch. Elected 18.11.'49.

FELL.—On December 21, HENLEY RAND FELL, aged 66, a member of Sproston Branch. Elected 17.1.'52.

GARRETT.—On February 20, ROBERT SYDNEY GARRETT, aged 78, a member of Llandudno Branch. Elected 15.8.'60.

GEARY.—On March 25, ARTHUR BERNARD GEARY, aged 82, a Northern London Area member and sometime H.B.M. Consul at Cairo. Elected 20.8.'26.

GREEN.—In March, HUBERT BISHOP GREEN, aged 72, a founder member of Wells-next-Sea Branch. Elected 17.12.'49.

HARRIS.—On March 26, JOHN GARD HARRIS, aged 61, a member of Milton Branch (Weston-Super-Mare). Elected 26.4.'48.

HOUD.—On February 25, JOSEPH EDWIN HOUD, aged 69, a member of Long Clawson Branch. Elected 18.12.'47.

JONES.—On January 2, FRANK E. JONES, a member of Prestatyn Branch. Elected 25.2.'37.

MARSHALL.—On March 6, BERNARD HENRY MARSHALL, aged 64, a member of Harlow Branch. Elected 28.11.'50.

MATTHEWS.—On February 21, WALTER MATTHEWS, aged 73, a member of Eastbourne Branch. Elected 1.9.'49.

MAXWELL.—On February 17, JAMES MAXWELL, aged 80, a member of Carluke Branch. Elected 9.12.'35.

McKENZIE.—On March 4, the Rev. JOHN HENDERSON MCKENZIE, aged 90, a member of Motherwell Branch. Elected 14.5.'29.

STANMORE.—On March 2, LEONARD J. STANMORE, aged 57, a member of Launceston Branch. Elected 25.3.'39.

THOMPSON.—On February 21, STANLEY THOMPSON, aged 77, a member of Stonehouse Branch. Elected 3.12.'35.

WALKER.—On March 8, LEONARD WALKER, aged 71, a member of Bexley Heath Branch. Elected 19.12.'45.

WESTON.—On January 26, STANLEY G. WESTON, aged 73, a member of Worthing Branch. Elected 10.10.'27.

WOMERSLEY.—On March 15, the Rt. Hon. Sir WALTER JAMES WOMERSLEY, aged 83, a member of Grimsby Branch. Elected 5.9.'28.

FAR CRY overseas notes



Contributed by GEOFF MARTIN



Cape Times

The Archbishop of Cape Town and Mrs. J. Newton-Thompson, Mayor of Cape Town, watch a game of 'Kerem' at the opening of the Mercury Club for coloured messengers

FOR APATHY READ HOPE

SOME MONTHS AGO Eric Ellis, a Nottingham member of the Central Executive, visited India on business, and among the many missions undertaken for Toc H was a visit to the Leprosarium in Bangalore. The visit prompted this letter, which tells a story worth reading:

*Sri Krishnarajendra Literary & Sports Association,
Central Leprosarium, Magadi Road, Bangalore, 2.*

Dear Sir,

It was on a Saturday evening in the year 1952, on a rainy day, Toc H had set foot in the hospital. The Chairman of Toc H, Mr. R. B. Kernick, and Mrs. J. J. Titus and one more member were the

first to enter the hospital purely to give some musical entertainment. After seeing conditions of the hospital, and how the inmates idling their times, they decided and provided them with a carrom board and a football to play with as per the request of the inmates.

The Chairman and members of Toc H also used to come every Saturday to play football, etc., with the inmates regularly. This has made the friendship so close that Toc H decided to improve the lot by forming an Association for their benefit.

In the meantime the Chairman of Toc H brought into the scene one Mrs. Winifred Joseph, a staunch social worker and a Councillor of the Corporation of Bangalore who has got great faith in helping the down-trodden. They further honoured the Association by becoming the first President and Vice-President respectively.

You will be surprised to know that our funds at the start of the Association was a meagre Rs. 3 (1 rupee=1s. 6d.) and now we can proudly say that we are having a bank balance of above Rs. 1,000 and assets worth Rs. 3,000 in our Association.

Toc H and Mrs. Joseph both fought with the Educational Department and had the School (hitherto run by Toc H) recognised and aided by them, having a staff of three teachers and one peon from the year 1954. The total expenditure of the school only comes to Rs. 2,000 annually, inclusive of staffs' pay, free books, slates, uniforms, etc., freely to school-going children of this hospital numbering about forty in all.

The poultry department was started in the year 1950 with a free gift of six chicks from the Vice-President, and now the strength is thirty-six fowls of white leghorn, hampshire and austerlope varieties employing an inmate to look after them. We hatch ourselves naturally and rear them artificially in our electrical brooder and sell the stocks as they grow. If we can get an incubator for ourselves we can still enlarge in, and develop it more and more.

The tailoring department started with one Singer sewing machine, and, with the help of the Chairman of Toc H, we got fents at a concessional rate to our Association and we made ready-made garments and often sold them among the inmates and as well to the staffs of the hospital. Some of our schoolboys were also taking training in the tailoring department under the guidance of the tailor in charge, Mr. Sri Ramulu.

We are also running gardening and spinning departments for the benefit of the inmates and paying them on fifty per cent of their total production value. The remaining fifty per cent goes to the Association funds less cost of seeds, manures, implements, etc., met by the Association.

There is also a weaving section having one frame loom and a warping machine, both of them donated by the Hind Khust Nivaran Saugh (Indian Leprosy Relief Association—otherwise called), Bangalore Branch, who is also helping the school with a monthly contribution of Rs. 25 per month. We used to weave bandage cloth and sell it to the hospital's use, and at times we weave shirting, etc., as per the orders booked.

The Library or Reading Room Section is getting a grant of Rs. 10 per month from the Corporation of Bangalore. We are receiving numerous books and magazines from well-wishers in England and America regularly.

We are also running carpentry and coloured wooden toys sections, but for lack of instructors we are at present closed temporarily. In all we are running ten different departments for the benefit of the inmates. There is also a sports section for the inmates and almost all indoor and outdoor games were provided free of cost by Toc H and Hind Khust Nivaran Saugh.

Every year Toc H conducts annual sports meetings from the year 1952 regularly for both inmates and staff alike and prizes were distributed by the Chairman to the winners. The meeting ends after a Grand Dinner at night. The first sports meeting was in 1952 and was filmed in 16mm. by G. E. Hoover who also used to show movies once in a month.

This is only a glimpse of what Toc H has turned out all these years and everyone here is thankful for what Toc H and its members have hitherto done to them for their betterment and to Mrs. Winifred Joseph and finally to the staffs of the Central Leprosarium for their co-operation in making everything a success.

Yours sincerely,

E. DEVADATHAN (*Treasurer*).



MARK IV, MANCHESTER

from Ralph Taylor

At a meeting on March 23, well supported by Marksmen, the Branch at MARK IV were entertained by the 8th Manchester Scout Group. After taking part in the Ceremony of Light, the Scouts assembled into their patrols and then followed a game, "Tossing without a blanket". A number of Marksmen and some of the larger boys formed two files, joining hands with their respective partners, whilst the Cubs, and some of the younger Scouts, were tossed from one end of the room to the other. As a grand finale the Area Padre was tossed along the line, which stood up to it remarkably well.

This was followed by a camp fire and meanwhile in the kitchen 'bangers' and cocoa had been prepared. These were disposed of with great speed, and then with the approach of 10 o'clock the happy meeting came to an end.

It is understood that many years ago similar scout projects of this type took place in the house, as the Mark has always been closely linked with St. Chrysostom's Church, and Scout Group. To date I have been unable to find anyone to give me any accurate details of these events, and I am therefore hoping that maybe some former Marksman who reads this will be able to remember some of the things done by the Scouts, information which I shall be most pleased to receive.



Tubby and Ray Geise pay a visit to Bill Hardy ("Journal" Correspondent for East Yorks.), pictured with Bill's ten-month daughter Ann and Blanche Thompson

NORTHERN

from Charles Young

Best wishes to Tom Gulliver from DARLINGTON Branch who has now been transferred to London and will eventually be living in St. Albans. Since his arrival in the Area a few years ago, Tom has served in many capacities at Branch, District and Area levels. He was also the founder and secretary of the Darlington Council of Churches, and always an active enthusiast towards any measures for Christian Unity.

STANLEY Branch are helping towards the prevention of road accidents by making luminous arm bands for the use of elderly folk and others. Branches who might be interested to have further information on this scheme please write to William Burton, 40 Council Street, Stanley, Co. Durham.

We welcome into the Family a new group which has been formed and meet in the Community Centre at BILLINGHAM-ON-TEES on Thursday evenings. Names of any friends or likely contacts would be welcome by Albert Sturgeon, 11 Sunnyside Avenue, Billingham.

GROVEHILL Branch are in direct contact through tape-recording by post with several Branches in Central Africa following the transfer of one of their members, Bob Dodsworth, to Southern Rhodesia.

Another departure from the Area to whom we send our best wishes is Bernard Waters who was a Marksman at MARK XVIII. A few months ago he offered himself to BELRA and has now gone overseas to work in a leper colony.

The Marksmen of MARK XVIII are now forming a library for the Children's Wards at the Royal Victoria Infirmary, Newcastle-upon-Tyne. One of their other jobs, apart from helping the Nautical School, Blythe, is the publication of a newsletter and paper for the mentally sick.

BEDS. & HERTS.

from Ray Fabes

GOLDINGTON group with their parent Branch of BEDFORD plus the women from CLAPHAM, and now HITCHIN have joined in the numbers visiting the Cheshire Home at Amptill, supplementing the good work already done by Branches such as STOPSLEY.

BERKHAMSTED have let their room to a bunch of younger people in the town on a night they are not using it. I wonder how many other Branches might use this method of making more friends among the younger members of their communities? Berkhamsted have already had their rooms cleaned out for them!

Ten members from the Area visited the Brothers' House, MARK XIII in Kennington one night last month at which Alec Molyneux from STEVENAGE, himself a Youth Club Leader, led a very provocative Guest-night session on "The Youth of Today"—as if they really were a special tribe apart.



Biggleswade Chronicle

Part of the audience at a Guest-night held by Biggleswade Branch to show the Toc H film, "A Lump Burns"

The Beacon, the first attempt at an Area Newsletter to stop the forlorn cry that was heard so much: 'Nobody told me anything about that', seems to have been well received and aroused much interest, the first circulation list is most satisfactory.

We are sorry to say 'cheerio' this month to Jeff Pratt who, for several years, has been making his presence felt in and around the Area. West Midlands look out, he's coming home! What with his starting a new Branch at MARSHALSWICK, a new District at St. Albans and taking on the arrangements for this year's Area Rally (when our Guest will be the Bishop of Bedford), he does not believe in our being idle and has left us with plenty to do.

Lastly, any bright suggestions for a new name for the Area incorporating Beds., Herts. and North Bucks.?

LINCOLNSHIRE

from George Lee

The fine start to Spring has already affected attendances at some of the rural Branch meetings, but we were grateful for the fine weather in order to be able to enjoy the beauty of Dor Knap for the Area party. Though depleted in numbers this year, some good work was done in the garden, and through discussion, we sought to solve some Area problems.

Members in the Area have been delighted to welcome Pi Mulumba-Musoke, the Field Secretary for Uganda. No one has succeeded more than 'Pi' has done in making the phrase, 'the worldwide family of Toc H' seem so real to us. While we may hope that he has gained much from his time spent with us, we in our turn are grateful to him for his fellowship. There is no doubt that many of the problems which we have tended to magnify out of all proportion have sunk into almost insignificance when learning of the ones confronting Pi and his colleagues in Uganda.

SURREY

from Tony Waterfield

Despite some vicissitudes, such as having to leave the premises we were using and, after having cleaned up other disused premises on which the youngsters worked like trojans for several weekends, having to relinquish the use of it owing to extensive wet rot in the walls and the roof, the Teenagers' Club run by WEYBRIDGE Branch have now been given the use of an old Public Hall as a temporary accommodation.

We still get eighty to ninety teenagers at our weekly Open Night, in addition to a Judo Class on another evening, and it is hoped to start a Club for those between eighteen and twenty-five on a third evening.

With help of a grant from the Surrey County Council we have been able to furnish a separate room as a canteen and buy quite a bit of equipment for indoors and outdoor games. Several members have taken part in a Public Speaking Competition and a country hike is planned for the near future.

A stranger to the town would remark on the number of houses which have a box labelled 'Newspapers' on the walls of their porches. The answer is to be seen at weekends and on several evenings a week when Weybridge members call and collect from such boxes and also from inside the houses stores of newspapers and magazines, which are bundled up and stored at a member's house until about three tons has been collected when a lorry takes it to be pulped.

With the proceeds of this regular collection of paper throughout the year, the Branch recently gave a party to old folk of the town, most of whom by reason of disablement are unable to take part in other social events organised by other charitable organisations in the town. After sitting down to a turkey dinner, the turkey having been cooked and carved by students at a local College of Food Technology, the old people were entertained by friends of the Branch with instrumental and vocal items, including sketches and a potted pantomime given by a group of teenagers under the direction of a Branch member who has organised the entertainment at these parties for a number of years.

Local shopkeepers and members had given a considerable number of the 120 presents distributed both to those actually present and the thirty who had been unable to attend due to disability.

In the past year four young men have been initiated into member-

ship, one of 18 years of age, one 17 and two of 16. The latter three have been attending meetings and helping with jobs since their early teens. Due to the association of the Branch with the newly-formed Teenagers' Club, several other youngsters have become interested.

KENT

from Cyril Cattell

BROADSTAIRS & ST. PETERS have recently had an interesting and instructive series in their current programme dealing with public utility services. This Branch is also busy now making plans for the annual Camp which takes place in August.

TUNBRIDGE WELLS was well supported by neighbouring Branches when they held their rededication service at the Church of King Charles the Martyr. Clifford Pollard, Area Padre, was guest speaker in the hall after the service.

BIRCHINGTON are making plans for a Whitsun Fair in the village. . . . Quite often Toc H Whist Drives are spoken of as being 'very friendly affairs'. This is so of those organised successfully by **NEWINGTON-IN-THANET**. Delicate children of Oak Bank Open Air School were entertained at a very fine party by **SEAL** (Sevenoaks) members. At the request of Sevenoaks Young Liberals, some members from **ST. JOHNS** (Sevenoaks) talked about the work of Toc H. At **TICEHURST** an instructive evening was spent when the area youth officer spoke to members.

Twenty-two years is quite a long time for a Branch to be in the same meeting place. It must therefore have been with some regret that **MARGATE** had to move from the Cecil Street room. Many members from S.E. Kent District attended the **CHARING** rededication service and the Get-together which followed in The Old Barn. A stout effort on the part of **CROWBOROUGH** resulted in £93 being sent from the takings of their jumble sale to **OXFAM** Congo Relief Fund.

Dinners and dances seem to be getting more and more popular in some Toc H circles. The **CANTERBURY** dinner was, as always, very successful, and the **SEVENOAKS** dinner and dance proved a most enjoyable evening. **CHILHAM** have accepted the invitation to help with the local youth club which is in some difficulties at the present time. Some members of **SITTINGBOURNE** are also giving a hand with the running of a youth club at Kemsley.

EASTERN LONDON

from Jim Green

Congratulations to **HOCKLEY** who, after a vigorous and active period as a group, have been granted Branch status. **LOUGHTON** Branch secured the services of a local school band and choir and held a concert attended by several hundred people; a thoroughly enjoyable evening ensued—the band raised the roof almost literally at times, the audience were enthralled and the proceeds will help the Branch to continue and develop its many activities. The **FOREST** District were grateful to the new **FOREST GATE** group for their hospitality in arranging a social evening at Durning Hall, the Christian Community Centre to which the group belongs.

On Whit Monday from 2.30 p.m. onwards we hope to see all who can come to Gordon Fields, Ilford, for the **GRAND WHITSUN FETE**, with a Drumhead Tattoo by the Essex Regiment, T.A. This is being held by the Priory and Valentine Districts with the support of Women's Branches, in aid of the British Empire Cancer Campaign and Toc H charities.

SCOTLAND

from Reg Stewart

The highlight of the month was the evening at the Citizens' Theatre, Glasgow, when some 500 members and their friends foregathered to see the new play *Break Down* by the Scottish playwright, Stewart Conn. This was an ambitious venture initiated by Lyndsay Orr with the object of stimulating interest in Toc H in Glasgow and at the same time providing an opportunity for a larger number of Toc H members and their friends to meet than is normally possible and to raise funds for the Family Purse. The play itself received a mixed reception from the audience, as it did from the dramatic critics; but it undoubtedly held a deeper meaning than was readily discernible. The programme contained a message on the aims and present situation of Toc H in Scotland and Donald Macintosh gave a short talk during the first interval. On the whole it was felt that the venture had achieved its purpose in focusing public interest on Toc H in Glasgow and enabling members to meet one another in that city. As a result of the excellent response we have been able to show a reasonable profit which will benefit the Family Purse.



People's Journal, Dundee

A team of girl announcers from Telephone House, scrubbing out the new studio, a converted shop, for Toc H Broadcasts to Hospitals, Dundee, while the producer, Stanley Frew, and commentator, P. Wilkie, tackle the switch-box

The second of our Training Conferences was held in SOUTH-WEST SCOTLAND, at Troon, on March 18, when some forty members met at Piersland, a Yorkshire Church of England Holiday Home. Jack Shaw, Area Secretary from Liverpool, was the principal speaker and took as his theme "Training within the Movement towards a deeper understanding of what Toc H should mean to members in this present age". His extremely interesting talk was followed by group discussion on pre-selected questions applicable to this theme which was followed by a joint discussion led by Lyndsay Orr. The success of this Conference was largely due to the excellent arrangements made by the South West Training Conference Committee and in particular John Matheson of Prestwick.

PRESTONPANS Branch found themselves involved in a controversial local community situation that has become the talking point of the County. On learning that the Town Council were about to serve eviction notices on a number of people who had failed to pay arrears of rent and rates, the Branch called a special meeting and after much discussion and deliberation agreed on humanitarian and Christian grounds to assist the families concerned, in the hope that such tangible aid would induce them to help themselves and in the future keep clear of this embarrassment.

In brief, the action taken by the Branch prevented the evictions, but there has been much criticism and even accusations of well-intentioned but misguided interference in the affairs of the local Town Council. Despite the criticism in the Press and from local rate-payers, the members of this Branch feel that they have acted in accordance with the best principles of Toc H "reckoning nothing of the world's opinion or its successes for ourselves or the family." Prestonpans Branch are now asking: "Were we right?" It would be interesting to know whether any other Branch has had a similar experience.

Jack Shaw visited Scotland from March 10 to 18 and spoke at Guest-nights in **EDINBURGH**, **DUNFERMLINE** and **NAIRN**. On Monday, the 13th, he addressed over seventy members and their friends at the Edinburgh University Chaplaincy Centre. He was supported on this occasion by Mrs. Joan Mallion of the Glasgow Women's Association who gave a short talk on "Partnership" stressing the need for men and women to collaborate in Toc H. On Tuesday, Jack travelled to our most northerly outpost at Nairn and addressed a meeting of some twenty members. On Thursday he was invited to talk to the Rotary Club at Dunfermline where he gave a typical 'Shavian' discourse to the local Burghers which was very well received. In the evening he addressed some sixty-five Toc H members and their friends drawn from Dunfermline, Oakley, Inverkeithing, Tillicoultry and Stirling. This evening performance was also enlivened by solos from Willie Paterson and Arthur Bett of Tillicoultry and Andy Birrell and Walter Inglis of Dunfermline.

WESTERN

from Johnnie MacMillan

The **SWINDON** Get-together brought out a goodly number of members. Derek Starling from **LONGLEVENS** Branch proved that the tale which some members tell, namely that the ordinary working member cannot talk about Toc H, to be quite untrue. A good discussion followed his talk and in several of the Branches still goes on.

BLEADON, in the West Mendip District, is not a big place, but at the Get-together in the Coronation Hall, it was obvious that almost all the inhabitants had come for this big occasion. A real family night with an excellent tea and entertainment and a talk that would be of great interest to the guests as well as Toc H members. The speaker, Tom Mantell of **SOUTHVILLE** Branch.

DURDHAM DOWN went to town on the occasion of their Get-together and the large company sat down to sausages and chips. The Girl Guides upstairs were highly appreciative of the chips, which were left over. Roy Foster of **CHIPPENHAM** started a discussion which the Chairman, George Brooker, found difficult to stop. Two friends, brought along by members spoke highly of the need for Toc H in society and thought we were a little too critical of ourselves.

The beer flowed freely, and the Cornish pasty, tasty, at CHIPPENHAM. This Get-together was a riot of fun, and the skit on Toc H by the four ancient mariners from Much Binding Branch, salutary and challenging. Derek Yardley Wright rose to the high standard and his planned programme was most apt. A party to be remembered; the Builders who were present were thrilled by the vitality of the evening.

The Area Guard received an excellent report from Jim Brooks of the Area Guard Conference at Dor Knap, and the lessons learned on this occasion will be put into practice in the coming year.

The Chairman of NAILSEA Branch is a good master of ceremonies. At his Branch's Get-together he proved to all present that an excellent evening can be had without a speaker. There was much mental and physical movement as well as digestive.



East Grinstead Observer

Frank Skinner receiving East Grinstead Branch Lamp from Cyril Cattell

SUSSEX

from Cyril Cattell

A series of two-evening training sessions has just been completed covering all five Districts in the Area. The discussions were under the title, "To build Community Here", and were concerned with the basic aims and purpose of Toc H. Many useful ideas have been exchanged and it is hoped that members are now busy translating their thoughts into action back in their Branches.

Many members in South Sussex—and in fact throughout the Area—will be sorry to learn that we are to be deprived of the energy and lively personality of JOHN WESTON for the next twelve months or so. John will be undertaking a course of further study in connection with his profession of schoolmaster. We wish him all success.

Since EASTBOURNE 'adopted' Strange Ward of Downside Hospital they have held regular meetings there. One very enjoyable occasion was the showing of films which included many local views.

Newest Branch in the Area is EAST GRINSTEAD. On the occasion of their Dedication Service they were presented with the Lamp of Maintenance in the Methodist Church. In addition to members from neighbouring Sussex Branches, there was also a contingent present



Lowestoft Journal

Lowestoft Branch entertains members of the local Toc H Women's Association Branch to a sausage supper in their rooms

NOTTS. & DERBY

from Les Wheatley

The scene is one of those mountainous streets of MATLOCK. Two figures, who on better acquaintance turn out to be an alderman and a member of the local Council, puff and pant their way almost to the top house. The lighted knob is chimed and soon the lady of the house appears. "Is Mr. Findon in please?" The lady of the house regretted—no he was at a meeting—the Toc H meeting down in the Shelter in the Park. "It's on Toc H business we want to see him. We'll go down to the Park", and off they went, this time at greater speed because it was that kind of a street.

Inside the Shelter, the Branch had paused in their goings on for a tea break. There was a knock and there, slightly warm, stood our friends from the Council. "Is Mr. Findon here?" they asked hopefully. Yes, he was, and would they please step inside; they were just brewing up and they both looked as if they could use what was being brewed. They certainly could and did.

Down to business, the story was told of a couple who were to be evicted next Saturday (the night was Tuesday) from their present filthy and extremely damp living quarters. Yes, there was alternative accommodation—a two-bedded bungalow—but, here was the rub, the decoration of the bungalow was nearly as bad as where they were now, but not the structure. There was no authority to employ labour to put things right and in hope and or desperation they had come to Toc H—"Can you help us?"

Thankfully they listened to the arrangements being made on the spot for a team of six to descend, brushes and buckets at the alert, for a first 'bash' the next night. When the extent of re-decoration was known better, further arrangements would be made for more men to 'get fell-in' for the job, and by Saturday, have no fear—it will be ready.

For a man who had just collected for himself and his fellows a large-sized, urgent and dirty job, George seemed extraordinarily happy when he told me about it on the phone.

NORTH WALES

from I. Wyn Roberts

Representatives from thirty-one Toc H and Women's Association Branches in NORTH WALES and border counties answered the roll-call at the Spring Festival held at Rhyl on Saturday, March 25, when the speaker was Iain Fraser, Lakeland Area Secretary.

Members came from as far afield as BISHOP'S CASTLE, and WEM, in Shropshire, and CLUBMOOR, LANCASHIRE and the WIRRAL, in addition to strong representation from North Wales districts.

Former North Wales Divisional Correspondent, Bill Williams, who came from London especially to act as compere and community singing leader, was given a warm welcome by Padre John Jones, former Wales Area Padre.

Much of the local organisation was undertaken by David Jones, Rhydwen Drive, Rhyl, assisted by members of the RHYL District team. The result was one of the most successful festivals ever held.

The festival opened with a service in the magnificent Marble Church, Bodellwyddan, and it was encouraging to see the church almost completely filled.

The sermon was preached by the Vicar of Altrincham, Rev. E. Basil Jones, perhaps better known in North Wales as former curate of Rhyl, where he first became interested in Toc H, and former rector of Llanuwchllyn, where he helped to form a Toc H Branch.

A welcome tribute to Toc H was paid by the Chairman of Rhyl Urban Council, Mr. J. Espley, when extending a civic welcome to the festival.

After community singing and light entertainment provided by individual Branches, the Festival was addressed by Iain Fraser in his inimitable way, and in the course of his remarks he urged Toc H members to reassess their thinking in order to cope with the changing face of the 20th century.

The festival ended with Home-going prayers led by Padre John Jones.

SOUTHERN

from Fred Brooker

The Branch had got itself into one of those discussions that come to all Branches from time to time. Things were not what they used to be. The talk turned this way and that, some folk trying to be constructive, some being destructive, some trying to find excuses that would help to quiet the conscience.

One member, trailing his coat, suggested that there were not the needs for service that there used to be. This was just what the 'Jobbie' had been waiting for. The 'Jobbie' is a great big bloke, and he towered over us as he spoke. He told us about the work that was going on amongst disabled children in the place, and about the wonderful Welfare Worker, who was doing so much for them, in spite of many difficulties.

Last Christmastide, Toc H had given her a hand in running a Party for these little folk, unable to go to ordinary parties, and join in with the fun and games of normal children. If the Branch wanted to find some need for service let them help these children and their friend the Welfare Worker.

Immediately the meeting was transformed and the room was full of ideas and suggestions. When order had been restored, it was agreed that we should investigate, first of all, the possibility of taking all the

children for a Summer outing. No one knew how many there would be, or what sort of outing would be the best for them.

So three members, who it was thought had no work to do on the following morning, were instructed to call and say that Toc H were considering running a Summer outing, but not to commit the Branch before more details were known.

On arriving at the Welfare Worker's office, the 'Jobbie' fell completely under her spell, and her great and real concern for the children with whom she worked. So much so, that he said straight away that Toc H were going to run an outing for them in the Summer. Only then did he remember that at this stage we were not supposed to commit the Branch in any way.

Over a cup of coffee, we talked with her about the plan, and discovered that there would be about eighty children who would like to come, and we discovered the sort of things they would be able to do. We left full of joy, and not a bit dismayed because we had committed the Branch behind their backs. This was a big job, and we should have to bring the nearby Branch in on it.

We talked to all sorts of people about our plan, and offers of help started to come in. The two Branches concerned have accepted the challenge with real thankfulness, the date has now been fixed, and a nice sandy bay has been chosen, and plans for tea and suitable games are in hand.

I feel sure that this is only the start to a really worthwhile piece of service, and I know that all those taking part will know great joy because of it. No prizes are offered for guessing which these Branches are! Just a little clue, lots of flowers and tomatoes come from their locality.

WEST MIDLANDS

from Bob Purdy

After some visitation by Kidderminster members and the Area Secretary, STOURPORT group is now meeting, and having elected their officers have a programme planned for some time ahead. At their second meeting an enthusiastic man produced a couple of jobs which he felt needed attention. Some of those attending already help Kidderminster with their crippled car service.

George Atkinson, Warden of Dor Knap, has already visited the Branches on the North Cotswold District which during the month included a Tramp Supper at CHIPPING CAMPDEN, Branch Rededication at BROADWAY and he's informing STOW-ON-THE-WOLD Branch, at their request, about the 'machinery' of Toc H Incorporated.

HEDNESFORD had their first, of what they intend to be, an annual recognition of the devotion and sacrifice of the wives and sweethearts of the Branch members, giving them a dinner and night out. North Worcester Joint District Party was this year held at WALL HEATH, who were responsible for the excellent arrangements and over 150, including families, were present.

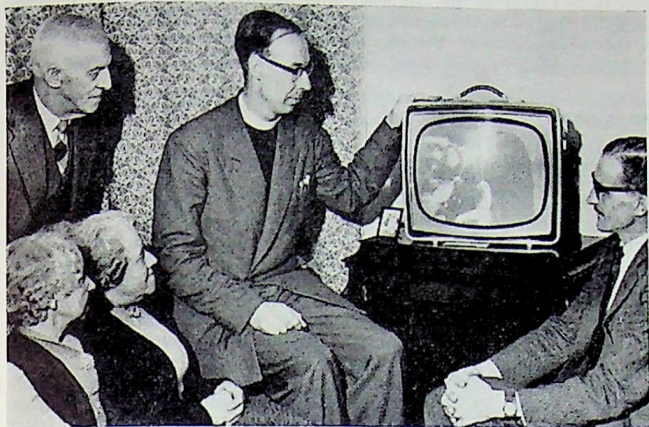
Padre Len Rivett visited the Area speaking at NETHERTON Branch and leading the SOUTH WORCESTER/SOUTH BIRMINGHAM Training weekend at Dor Knap. The theme was "The Ecumenical Movement" and Len gave instances of experiments in Yorkshire. The weather and food were perfect, and even the working party made an impact. Four members of WYCHALL FARM ESTATE group made a stimulating contribution.

SOUTH WESTERN

from Gilbert Francis

Two sets of greetings this month. First to CULLOMPTON Branch who have recently received their Lamp and who now look forward to taking further steps along the road leading to that greatest of all adventures—the building of the Kingdom of God.

Greetings, too, to Padre Bob Grey and his wife and son, recently arrived in this country from South Africa. Bob comes to this Area for six months and we bid him and his family welcome, being quite sure that they will soon have formed many firm friendships here.



Filipsons Newspapers Ltd

A mobile television service for old people organised by Horwich Branch

NORTH WESTERN

from Jack Shaw

UPTON-WITH-GREASBY have been interesting their locality in Blood Transfusion and Old People's Welfare. Three hundred blood donors have been recruited and prospects are bright for something along the lines of a Good Neighbour Scheme. WEST KIRBY BEACON are planning to run a summer camp for children who have had polio. SAUGHALL followed their annual sausage and mash supper with a showing of the *Toc H* film *A Lamp Burns*. This was also shown at a mixed evening in GLADSTONE HOUSE for Marksmen and their women friends. A new group has started at WARRINGTON and their first job has been preparing a meeting place, CROSBY assisted by MAGHULL and ORMSKIRK entertained 120 elderly guests at their 12th Annual Dinner.

HORWICH Branch celebrated their 25th Birthday on March 24. The year has been significant for a survey the Branch have made of the town and details of it have been asked for by the local Council. We shall hear more of this. Also during the past year the Branch has commenced a mobile television service for old people. By grouping the folk together according to their addresses and asking them to invite one another to view the programmes together, the television set has brought new friends for the old people to whom it is lent.

SOUTH WALES

from C. T. Edwards

The RHYMNEY VALLEY District held a successful rally at Bargoed on Friday, March 16, with members of the Toc H and the Women's Association from the RHONDDA, ABERDARE, RHYMNEY and SIRHOWY Valleys and also the eastern and western valleys of Monmouthshire.

Stirring community singing was led by Roy Daniel of TREFOREST Branch and the Ceremony of Light taken by Frank who lit the Silver Lamp of Wales, brought for the occasion from its permanent abode in the Temple of Peace, Cardiff.

'Ches', Editor of the JOURNAL, during his talk put forward some practical suggestions towards gaining the interest of younger men with a special emphasis on the men in the thirty to forty age group.

Home-going Prayers were led by W. T. Jones of Bargoed Branch.

W. LONDON

from Mayne Elson

"PUTNEY Toc H are forming a good neighbours panel in an attempt to widen the sphere of social work within the Area. Thousands of leaflets detailing the plan have been distributed.

"The Branch believes a lot can be done for the aged, the sick and the handicapped. Despite the modern network of social services there are still people infirm, lonely, or without resources, who need help.

"And the idea is that the help should come from local folk who, although they are not members of Toc H, would nevertheless like to do something."—*South Western Star*, 24.2.61.

The story behind this news cutting is one which is very common in Toc H. It is that of a Branch whose members thought they had not sufficient manpower to tackle nearly all the things which ought to be done in the neighbourhood and believed that people can be made aware of Toc H by being asked to do something for someone else.

All who responded to the original leaflet were sent another letter beginning "Dear Good Neighbour", which listed the different forms of service that Putney Toc H had in mind, and asked them to complete and return a simple form stating what day and time they could make themselves available and what type of service they would prefer to undertake. The replies came in well and the Branch now has a panel of thirty volunteers in addition to its own members.

The first job has already been done. It was one of decorating for an elderly couple and in preparation for it quite a lot of equipment had to be assembled. The necessary materials are, of course, provided by the "customer".

When this scheme has really got going it is intended to call a meeting of the "Good Neighbours" so that they may get to know each other.

CANADA

From W. J. Membury

Here is a message for every Branch in Britain. When you have a member coming out to Canada to start a new life in this vast country, it is important for the newcomer to make contact with friends in order to get settled. If Branch Secretaries would ensure that such members were provided with a letter of introduction together with my address, I am sure that, between us, we could do quite a bit to help. Here is my address: W. J. Membury, 27 Summit Crescent, Guelph, Ontario, Canada.



OPEN HUSTINGS

readers' letters



The Editor welcomes letters on all matters concerning Toc H and asks that they be written briefly and to the point. Effort is made to include a representative selection, and they are printed as individual view-points, not necessarily those of the Movement as a whole.

Ceremony of Light

NEARLY five months have passed since I made my plea for the revision of certain of the phrases we use during the Ceremony of Light.

Simultaneously, other aspects of the ceremony have been dealt with in correspondence, but these I would like to leave apart while I consider the comments which have been made upon my own views.

(a) H. A. Milne is concerned lest we change the words of one of the most beautiful verses in our English language. I am concerned that we shall not be so blinded by the beauty of that verse that we continue to use it long after it has ceased to be appropriate and factual. It would be equally illogical to cling to a 1960 calendar in 1961 because it presented a particularly attractive picture.

(b) Padre Batchelar has, in effect, acknowledged that the words which were so apposite in the early twenties need a rather different interpretation now. Happily, he has been able to satisfy his own needs by a mental amendment, but I question the practicability of offering his particular revision as an alternative.

(c) Sydney Grimes supports me in principle, but with an objection

to the use of verse in conjunction with that of Laurence Binyon. I am sorry not to support him in this, but I submit that a prose alternative to the existing lines cannot offer the inspiration that is inherent in verse—even of sub-Binyon standard. At best, it may require qualification and explanation, and, at worst, may sound more like an extract from the Chairman's Report.

I wonder whether, in addition to the opinions which have been expressed in the JOURNAL, this matter has aroused as much interest generally as I feel it deserves. From discussion I have overheard, the average reaction appears to consist of a grudging admission that the present wording of the Ceremony is not entirely satisfactory, combined with a strong disinclination to become involved in any effort to achieve a change—"because it has always been like that".

While I would not attempt to magnify this topic into one of the major problems facing Toc H in this ever-changing world, I am quite convinced that the change will come eventually because we cannot for ever refuse to face facts.

FREDDIE PETCH.

Letchworth, Herts.

Emergency Call

FRANK WILLIS

THE RADIO OFFICER on duty rushed into the Control Room and told the Duty Officer—"A private charter 'plane reports that she is in trouble 200 miles South West of Land's End, sir, and is about to ditch." As a result of this call for help, all the complicated machinery of Air/Sea Rescue is at once put into operation; a Shackleton aircraft flies out and commences an intensive air search and a high-speed rescue launch sets out at once to the estimated position of the crashed aircraft. After many hours' continuous search the private charter aircraft's rubber dinghy is spotted from the air, the launch is directed to the precise spot and six more men are rescued from a possible death from exposure or drowning.

Unfortunately, the elderly, lonely or crippled person living alone, or who is alone for a great part of the day and who is suddenly taken ill or suffers an accident in the home may not be so fortunate as these airmen, particularly in a large urban area where no one may be sufficiently interested to enquire why the papers are still in the letter box or why the milk bottles are still on the doorstep at 5 p.m. and, for lack of anyone knowing that assistance was needed a life might be unnecessarily lost, or suffering might be prolonged.

Lifebelt Scheme

It is to rectify this situation that a scheme known as the Lifebelt Scheme has been started recently in various parts of South London. The scheme was originated by New Addington Branch when they formed an association called "The New Addington Good Samaritans" (or N.A.G.S. for short).

As a result of reports given from time to time at the Spring-park District team meetings, three other Branches got together and formed a committee on which served Toc H members and representatives from other organisations, e.g. W.V.S., British Red Cross, St. John Ambulance, British Legion, Over-60 Clubs, local churches and Old People's Welfare Committees. The Scheme was given the name of the Lifebelt Scheme, after the lifebelt shown on the card illustrated in this article.

Since then the idea has been taken up by all Branches in the Springpark District and by others in South London. In the Borough of Beckenham, arising out of a meeting called by a small Branch of eight men, not only has the Lifebelt Scheme been formed, but the whole of Welfare in the Borough has been completely re-organised and is being led by members of the Borough Council, Town Clerk, Medical Officer of Health, etc.

Since the inception of the Scheme there have been a number of calls for assistance which have been promptly answered, and distress and undue suffering have been avoided or considerably reduced. In a number of instances neighbours who



know of the Scheme have become much more aware of the fact that someone near has a card, and are making regular calls to see that all is well. The basic idea of the Scheme is to issue all elderly, lonely or disabled people who wish to participate with a card 8-in. \times 8-in. square on which there is displayed a white lifebelt on a brilliant green background with the words "Assistance Needed"

printed in the centre. In the event of need of any kind arising, the holder of the card displays it in the window and neighbours, tradesmen, voluntary bodies, schoolchildren, etc., who having been previously alerted as to what to do on seeing a card, will either summon assistance by dialling 999 or by themselves rendering help. The card contains on the reverse side details of the holder's next of kin, and name and address of doctor.

The Police in the Metropolitan Area have received instructions from their Headquarters to recognise the card and give all assistance. The Home Office has expressed approval and is prepared to advise the 125 Police Forces throughout the country if and when the Scheme is taken up in other parts. The holders of the cards are given confidence that in an emergency assistance will quickly be given, but the most important auxiliary activity of the Lifebelt Scheme is regular visiting of card holders by members of the organisations represented on the

The first essential before launching the Scheme is to contact the local office of the Council of Social Service, and the Old People's Welfare Committee if one exists in the neighbourhood. A number of committees and many schemes operate for assisting old people, and the Lifebelt Card Scheme can provide a very useful adjunct to something already in existence. It is stressed that the Scheme applies not only to old people but to all who are housebound either permanently or temporarily, including spastics, epileptics, etc., so it is necessary to work in co-operation with all the statutory and voluntary bodies who help these folk.

Some elderly people have been concerned because they have felt that the Lifebelt Card would indicate that someone was alone and that it might be an invitation to some characters to break in to take advantage of the situation. This idea has been dispelled by the knowledge that the immediate action is to dial 999 and the Police are on the spot within minutes.

Some have doubted whether, in the case of an old person living alone in a back room, the card would be seen. It is usually found that anyone living under such circumstances is in fact in a building or a block of flats with other people, and the card could well be shown on the door, or alternatively if the visiting is well organised, no problem arises.

Considerable experience has now been built up on this Scheme, and any Branch requiring further information is recommended to communicate with the Secretary of the Lifebelt Scheme, E. L. Atkinson, 161 Langley Way, West Wickham, Kent.

No Easy Task

VERONICA H. WEEKS

A first-hand account of the setting-up of Citizens' Advice
Bureaux on a non-racial basis in Southern Rhodesia

TOC H has recently played a large part in the promotion of Citizens' Advice Bureaux in Salisbury and Bulawayo, and the two African townships of Harari and Highfield in Salisbury, Southern Rhodesia.

This influence has mainly flowed from one man, DENNIS ETHEREDGE, the Chairman of Toc H for Central Africa, a prominent business man in Rhodesia, whose outstanding

ability as a business man and administrator in no way dims his obvious respect for individuals as people, regardless of race or colour.

Not to lose the common touch and still to care for individuals are attributes of greatness in those whose paths lead them to high places. The combination of pronounced ability found in leaders of industry, and the light revealed through Toc H, can produce the faith that removes mountains.

This, in effect, was something of what happened in Rhodesia recently. The transfer of a service of value in this country to Central Africa with all its problems was made possible in the first instance by the Joseph Rowntree Memorial Trust in Great Britain, whose desire to help Rhodesia in some way at the present time led them to invite Miss K. M. OSWALD, the Secretary of the National Citizens' Advice Bureaux Committee, to spend a month in the Federation in the Autumn of 1959, on a fact-finding tour. The Trustees, acting on Miss Oswald's report, later asked the National Council of Social Service to help again by finding a social worker who could go out for six months to help Toc H who, Miss Oswald learned, were actually trying to start an advisory service for Africans in Salisbury, under the guidance of Dennis Etheredge.

This is where I came into the picture, when I was asked to leave my work as Northern C.A.Bx. Officer for six months to go out to Rhodesia. To have the opportunity of working with Mr. Etheredge in promoting a Citizens' Advice Bureau Service in Rhodesia has been an enriching experience.

Working Together

The establishment of a non-racial service of this kind under present circumstances in Central Africa was no easy task. Nevertheless the venture succeeded and today Africans, Europeans, Asians and Coloureds are working together to provide such a service for their fellow citizens of all races.

The Women's Branches of Toc H in Salisbury, who invited me to address them on our work, were thereafter a constant source of friendship and help. In Bulawayo the treasurer of Toc H Women's Branches for Central Africa did much to make the early promotion of our work possible in this town.

Rotary and other organisations supported and furthered this venture and the work of the wife of a Rotarian in Bulawayo made possible the final launching of a bureau whose keel only was laid prior to my departure.

Like their prototypes in the United Kingdom, the Citizens' Advice Bureaux are non-political and serve all sections of the community, irrespective of creed and colour. They are staffed, again as in the United Kingdom, by a combination of professional and voluntary workers, all of whom have taken a course of training to equip them in undertaking this work.

They include people with a range of qualifications and experience that cannot be calculated in terms of money and whose contribution to the community would not have been available without the introduction of this new service to Central Africa. That there are such people should give us hope for the Rhodesias with all their problems and difficulties.

This could be you

HE is over 16 years of age—he generally goes out each Friday evening about 8 o'clock; he likes the company of other men, and does not mind what their job is or what they earn, for he treats them all alike. He believes in helping others, not by giving money, but by his ability to give service in his spare time for those in need of it. He believes in the Christian way of life, but does not preach religion, for he spreads it without preaching.

He has, over a period of time, listened to some very interesting speakers on a variety of subjects, and taken part in some most lively debates and discussions. He has heard most of his friends talk on their jobs and finds he has become attached to a useful Information Bureau as a result.

He finds this company of men enables him to take his wife out at intervals to meet their wives and enjoy a social evening together. He meets these friends on other occasions apart from Friday evenings, when they get together to play cricket, bowls or golf.

Finally, he has found that, apart from making so many new friends, he is now living a much fuller life and enjoying it more.

The above introduction to Toc II is printed on the fixture list of Concy Hall Branch, which also gives the dates and details of six months' programme. The reverse side carries a warm invitation to get in touch with the Branch Secretary who "will be pleased to let you have the gen on Toc H or arrange for a member to call on you".



Coffee Bar

“PEOPLE come up to me, pleased as Punch, and they say, ‘We’ve started a coffee bar in our club. Isn’t that a good idea?’ But some of them seem to think that all you have to do is to spend a lot of money and get the thing going, then sit back. And that’s terribly dangerous.”

The speaker is Edrie Green, a member of the Youth Service Development Council, and a young woman well qualified to talk authoritatively on the subject of coffee bars. Five years ago, at the age of twenty-three, she was appointed to run Sheffield’s first Teen Bar, in the suburb of Heeley, an area densely populated by steelworkers’ houses. For three instructive years she remained there.

“The first, and most important thing, is to establish personal relationships with the kids. And that takes months,” she says. “When you’ve done that you can talk to them, straight from the shoulder. But until you’ve created that contact you’re just running one more street corner, you’re not succeeding.”

What do youngsters expect from the adult workers in their clubs? “They don’t want the pat-on-the-head brand of sympathy, and it’s wrong to think they do. I’ve boxed kids over the ears before now when I’ve felt they needed it. What they usually require is to be told to pull up their socks—and once you know them really well you can tell them that and they will respect you.

“For example”, Edrie Green continues, “a boy came to me in the Teen Bar and asked me to hide his suitcase. He said ‘I’m doing a bunk from the Army. I’m fed up’. I told him, ‘I’m not hiding your suitcase, you’re going back to the Army’. And he said, ‘D’you know, that’s what I wanted you to say’. And he went back.”

She sees a club leader’s work falling into three divisions

(a) help with youngsters' day-to-day problems, brought to the leader once personal contact has been established, (b) help in getting jobs and digs, (c) finding them things to do; "People who say these kids don't want to do anything are just stupid."

A club or coffee bar can be informal, and unorthodox, but it can still get activities going. At the Teen Bar, for instance, they even got the most improbable of all things started—a discussion group. It developed from an argument on religion, an argument which almost ended in a fight. And although it was never given the formal title of a discussion group (that would have driven everyone away), it was, in fact, just that.

What of the cash aspect of youth clubs? "Make the members pay", says Edrie Green. "Youngsters scorn what they get for nothing. There's no loyalty if a club is just a place to drop in to, with everything provided."

This was borne out at the Teen Bar. A boy was caught slashing seats one night, but no action was needed by the staff. The other club members took him outside and dealt with him. On another occasion a local gang slouched in and demanded, "Where's the chuckers out?". "We haven't got any", they were told. "Well, what if we break the place up?". "That's simple", Edrie Green replied, "you break the place up and you won't have anywhere to go. It's your coffee bar." "Yeah, we hadn't thought of that", the gang said, and left quietly.

But, and this is the important thing, a coffee bar as such is not essential in any club, according to Edrie Green. It is only of real worth so long as it is used as a means to an end, the end being to encourage and assist young people to find a purposeful way of spending their working and leisure time.

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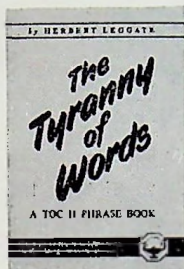
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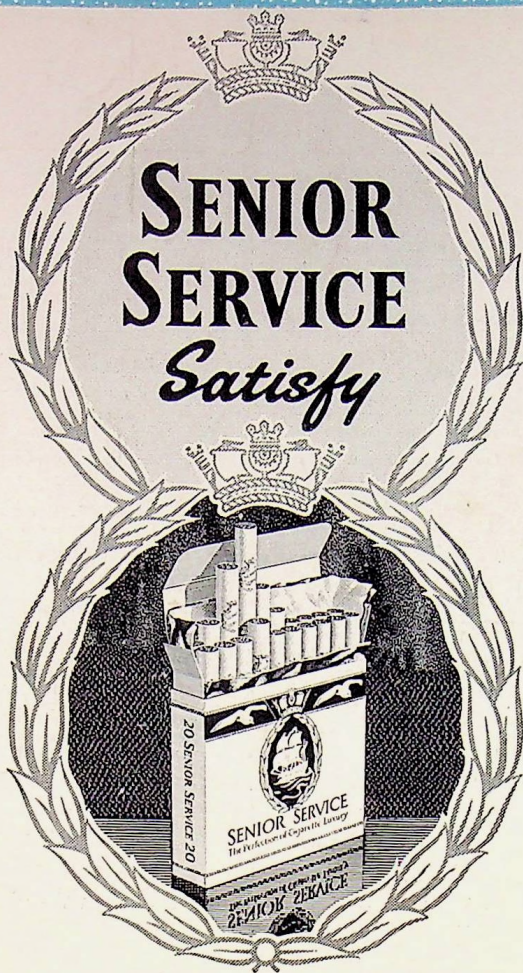
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